

REMARKS

The specification of the above referenced patent application has been amended to correct minor informalities. Applicant submits that these amendments do not constitute new matter. Examination of the above referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page(s) are captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 15, has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Positioned in the inner chambers of tubes 50, 60 is an elastic element in the form of spring 90. Spring 90 includes a plurality of coils 92 and two legs 94, 96. Formed at the end of each of the legs is a loop [96, 98] 98, 100. The coils of the spring form a substantially cylindrical chamber 102 along the longitudinal length of the coils. Spring 90 has a particular spring rate based upon the load range the counterbalance is to be exposed. The number of coils in the spring and the length of the legs of the spring are selected depending on the amount of extension desired for the counterbalance assembly and the desired length of the counterbalance assembly. Although not shown, the spring design can take on other configurations such as, but not limited to, inserting one or more legs between two or more coils of the spring. The spring can be made of a number of materials depending on several factors such as, but not limited to, the loads to be exerted on the spring, the environment the spring is to be used in, the size and/or weight of the spring to be used, etc. Typically, the spring is made of metal.--

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to FIGURE 6, mounting pins 120, 130 are shown to include a head 122, 132, a body 124, 134 and a threaded end 126, 136. The head of the mounting pins is shown to include a slot 128, 138 that allows a tool to insert and/or turn the mounting pin. The mounting pins are designed to secure the ends of the spring and the strap to the ends of tubes 50, 60. Referring now to FIGURE 5, mounting pin 120 is inserted through opening 58 of tube 50. Head 122 is sized and/or shaped so as to prevent the head from passing through opening 58. The body of the mounting pin

is typically sized so as to be the same size and shape of the opening or slightly less than the size and shape of the opening to allow the body to pass through the opening, yet restrict the amount of movement in the opening. As can be appreciated, the size and shape of the body of the mounting pin can substantially deviate from the size and shape of the opening so long as at least a portion of the body can pass through the opening. The body of the mounting pin is shown as passing through loop 98 of spring 90 and through the looped end 112 of strap 110 so as to secure one end of the spring and strap to the end of tube 50. The body of the mounting pin is illustrated as being smooth in this region so as not to cause undue [ware] wear on the loop of the spring and the end of the strap. As can be appreciated, the body of the mounting pin can have rough surfaces to better engage the end of the spring and/or strap if such added engagement is desired. The threaded end of the mounting pin is designed to be threaded into a connector located on the side wall of the cargo area. Similarly, mounting pin 130 is inserted through opening 70 of tube 60. Head 132 is sized and/or shaped so as to prevent the head from passing through opening 70. The body of the mounting pin is shown as passing through loop 100 of spring 90 and through the looped end 114 of strap 110 so as to secure one end of the spring and strap to the end of tube 60. The threaded end of the mounting pin is designed to be threaded into a connector located on the side of the tailgate.--

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 21, has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The spring chamber 250 is designed to house the coil spring 260. Spring chamber 250 includes a slot 252 to engage the outer end 262 of the coil spring. Spring chamber 250 also includes a [center mount] circular opening 254 to receive a [center flange] slotted shaft 256. The [center flange is mounted to] slotted shaft retains the inner end 264 of the coil spring. The coil spring has a spring rate selected for the type of load to be exerted on the counterbalance assembly.--